

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV TGEN FR US

SUBJ: NOAA ECONOMIC STUDY OF AMOCO OIL SPILL

1. SUMMARY. NOAA'S NORMAN MEADE, RHODE ISLAND UNIVERSITY'S JOEL DIRLAM, AND EMBOFF MET JULY 13 WITH CNEXO AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND OBTAINED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA OF REFERENCE STUDY AS WELL AS OFFER OF COOPERATION. REQUEST LEFT WITH ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY FOR LETTER APPROVING THE STUDY. END SUMMARY.

2. NORMAN MEADE, ECONOMIST, OFFICE OF OCEAN MANAGEMENT, PROFESSOR JOEL DIRHAM OF RHODE ISLAND UNIVERSITY'S ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, AND EMBOFF MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF CNEXO AND MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TO DISCUSS COLLABORATION OF STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF AMOCO/CADIZ OIL SPILL. GROUP INCLUDED GCLAUDE RIFFAUD, DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF CNEXO'S PRESIDENT; CLAUDE CHERKI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CNEXO; LUCIEN CHABASON, "DELEGUE ADJOINT A LA QUALITE DE LA VIE"; RICHARD PASQUET OF THE "DIRECTION POUR LA PREVENTION DES POLLUTIONS ET NUISANCES", MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT; ROGER DRUON OF THE "DELEGATION A LA QUALITE

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DE LA VIE", MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT; PATRICK DAILLIER, DEAN OF THE WEST BRITTANY LAW AND ECONOMICS FACULTY; AND LUCIEN LAUBIER, HEAD OF THE BRITTANY OCEANOGRAPHIC CENTER, WHICH IS A PART OF CNEXO.

3. MEADE STATED THAT HE AND HIS TEAM ARE DEVELOPING A METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING OIL SPILL'S ECONOMIC

IMPACT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PROPOSED US COMPREHENSIVE OIL SPILL INSURANCE PROGRAM AND IN GENERAL FOR HELPING TO REDUCE OIL SPILLS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FUTURE.

4. PASQUET EXPRESSED INTEREST GENERALLY IN COOPERATION. HE NOTED THOUGH THAT QUESTIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION WILL BE TAKEN UP IN THE MERCHANT MARINE. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY STUDY COMPARABLE TO NOAA'S ON THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE SPILL, THERE OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE GOF. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE UNDERTAKING SEEMED INTERESTING AND THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS QUITE FAVORABLE, BUT NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE COMPLICATED AND WOULD REQUIRE MUCH EFFORT TO OBTAIN HARD DATA.

5. CNEXO'S RIFFAUD, MORE OR LESS A CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE CNEXO PRESIDENT, WARNED, AS HE OFTEN HAS, THAT THERE WILL BE DIFFICULTIES IF MASS INTERVIEWS OF FISHERMEN AND OTHER ECONOMIC OPERATORS GIVE RISE TO RUMORS THAT THE US IS WORKING ON FRENCH SOIL ON THIS PROBLEM. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS DIRECT CONTACT WOULD BE DONE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT BY FRENCH PERSONNEL TEMPORARILY ENGAGED BY NOAA. MEADE AGREED TO THIS.

6. CHABASON AGREED TO THE USEFULNESS OF THE IDEA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERALLY BUT STATED IT MUST BE DONE UNDER THE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDIES' AUTHORS. THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT WILL BE ABLE TO COOPERATE VIA ITS ECONOMIC STUDIES OFFICE, ESPECIALLY IN THE MATTER OF FACILITATING CONTACTS LOCALLY. BUT IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY.

7. RIFFAUD SECONDED THIS AND ADDED THAT AS FAR AS CNEXO WAS CONCERNED IT WAS NOAA'S FUNCTION TO DEFINE THE PROBLEMS AS WELL AS WHOM TO WORK WITH AND WHERE. HOWEVER, HE SAID CNEXO WOULD BE GLAD TO BE INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THIS STUDY. PASQUET ADDED THAT ENVIRONMENT IS ALSO VERY INTERESTED.

8. IT WAS AGREED TO CONSTITUTE A WORKING COMMITTEE OF MEADE, DIRLAM, PASQUET AND CRUON TO DISCUSS DETAILED METHODOLOGY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS BRIEFING.

9. CRUON SAID IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO INFORM THE LOCAL PREFECT, AN APPOINTED OFFICIAL WHOSE ROLE IS VAGUELY COMPARABLE TO A GOVERNOR OF AN AMERICAN STATE, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES. FOR THIS PURPOSE,

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IT WAS AGREED THAT MEADE WOULD SEND THE NAMES OF ALL OF
HIS TEAM MEMBERS AND THE TIMING OF THEIR ARRIVALS.

10. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT CNEXO WOULD BE ABLE TO
SEND OBSERVERS TO THIS COMMITTEE.

11. THE WORKING COMMITTEE AGREED TO HOLD A GENERAL
MEETING FOR 2 TO 3 DAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25, 1978.
AT THAT TIME COMPLETE PRESENTATIONS OF THE PRECISE
METHODOLOGIES THAT WILL BE EMPLOYED, AND PROSPECTIVE
DATA SOURCES TO BE USED, WILL BE PRESENTED. CRUON AND
CHABASON EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR QUARTERLY PLANNING
MEETINGS TO BE HELD BETWEEN FRENCH AND AMERICAN
PARTICIPANTS TO DISCUSS PROGRESS ON THE STUFFY AND
PRELIMINARY RESULTS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

13. COMMENT:

A. THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO THE STUDY IN
PRINCIPLE BUT THEY ARE STILL ASKING FOR A CLEAR
DEFINITION OF WHAT THE STUDY IS TO BE. THE SMALLER
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WORKING COMMITTEE IS NOW WORKING OUT THE DEFINITION OF THIS STUDY IN TERMS OF AVAILABLE PEOPLE AND RESOURCES ON THE SCENE IN FRANCE. WE WISH TO SECOND WHAT THE FRENCH HAVE SAID ABOUT PUBLIC APPEARANCES. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THESE EFFORTS BE AS FRENCH IN ASPECT AS POSSIBLE. WE MUST AVOID AN IMPRESSION THAT THE USG IS PREPARING AMOCO'S DEFENSE IN ANY IMPENDING COURT CASE.

B. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE CNEXO AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY PRERESENTATIVES HAVE ACCEPTED WHAT HAS BEEN PRESENTED THUS FAR OF THE ECONOMIC STUDY. A REQUEST HAS BEEN LEFT FOR A LETTER EXPLICITLY APPROVING THIS STUDY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ARE WORKING ON IT.
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